

our heritage

rovers

national challenge 2025

guidelines



"Sometimes, it falls upon a generation to be great. You can be that great generation. Let your greatness blossom."

- Nelson Mandela -



be prepared

Every day Scouts around the world contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the Scouts for SDGs initiative. The SDGs are a call to action to end inequality and poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that everyone has access to health, justice, and prosperity. Scouts for SDGs is the world's largest coordinated youth programme that ensures and enables young people to take local actions that contribute to solving global challenges. (<https://sdgs.scout.org/>)

SCOUTS South Africa has adopted "**Our Heritage**" as the **National Challenge for 2025!** According to UNESCO, 'Heritage' is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations. Our cultural and natural heritage are both irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration. The 2025 National Challenge aligns with the UNESCO World Heritage Education Programme and with World Scouting's Scouts for SDGs initiative.

The SDGs the programme addresses include:

- **SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Target 7 of SDG 4** calls for young people to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, equality, a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development. 
- **SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.** Inequality threatens long-term social and economic development, harms poverty reduction and destroys people's sense of fulfilment and self-worth. **Target 10 of SDG10** calls for the promotion of social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status. 
- **SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Target 4 of SDG 11** calls for strengthening efforts to protect cultural and natural heritage. (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/>) 

Embracing "Our Heritage" drives the SDGs in several ways, including deepening our understanding of one another, honouring our shared customs and traditions, and building a more inclusive and united future for the South African Scout Movement. SCOUTS South Africa's volunteers operate all around the country bring together people from all walks of life. Increasing awareness, cultivating knowledge, understanding and mutual respect will enable a generation that embraces cultural diversity and can contribute to supporting sustainable development in South Africa in the near future.

As the 'Rainbow Nation', South Africa is known for its wealth of diversity, uniting a vast array of nationalities under a single cultural umbrella. The country's symbolic moniker was first coined by Archbishop Desmond Tutu in 1994, recognising the many customs, histories, and languages which call South Africa home. (<https://www.africaoutlookmag.com/industry>)

This year's "Our Heritage" Challenge will encourage our young Scouts and Rovers to think about what they would like the world to be, and the heritage they would like to create.

introduction:

Heritage is a multifaceted concept that encompasses a wide range of socio-cultural elements. It represents a legacy or reminder that has been transmitted through generations, creating a connection between the past, present, and future. Heritage is not merely a record of history; it plays a critical role in shaping individual and collective identities, influencing how communities perceive themselves and their environments.

In the context of communities, heritage fosters an understanding and appreciation of our shared existence, bolstering pride in cultural and historical roots. This appreciation is essential for promoting social cohesion and moral regeneration, as it helps individuals find common ground and shared values. A place or object qualifies as heritage when it holds particular significance due to its importance to a family, community, society, nation, or ethnic group. Such connections give rise to a sense of belonging and continuity that enriches social fabric.

heritage can be divided into two primary forms:

intangible heritage:

Oral traditions: This includes folk tales, songs, music, proverbs, idioms, poetry, and other oral narratives that convey the beliefs and values of a culture. These stories serve not only as entertainment but also as educational tools, teaching younger generations about their identities and moral lessons.

Customs and rituals: This encompasses various practices such as rites of passage, festivals, and ceremonies that are unique to particular cultures or communities. These activities often mark important life events and reinforce communal bonds.

Indigenous Knowledge Systems: These are traditional practices and forms of knowledge held by indigenous communities, encompassing methods of agriculture, environmental stewardship, and resource management that have been refined over generations.

Skills and crafts: This includes traditional skills such as hunting, agriculture, and craftsmanship. Mastery of these skills is integral to cultural identity and often serves as a vital economic resource within communities.

Food and attire: Traditional foods and clothing are essential aspects of cultural identity, often passed down through generations and carrying significant historical and cultural meanings.

tangible heritage:

Sites: This category includes historically significant locations such as battlefields, sacred sites, protected natural areas, and archaeological discovery sites. These locations serve as physical reminders of historical events and cultural significance.

Monuments and memorials: This includes statues and other forms of memorialization that commemorate significant figures and events. These structures often provide a physical space for reflection and remembrance.

Architectural heritage: This refers to buildings and structures that reflect the architectural styles and historical significance of the time in which they were built. Ruins and historic buildings serve as tangible links to the past.

Historical artifacts: Objects of historical significance, such as artifacts, food items, and clothing, offer insights into the daily lives and practices of people from different eras and cultures.

domains of heritage:

Cultural heritage: This encompasses the practices, expressions, and values that define a community's identity. It includes both tangible and intangible aspects of culture.

Historical heritage: This refers specifically to the remembrance and commemoration of events, individuals, and movements that have significantly shaped a particular society.

Natural heritage: This includes natural sites and landscapes of cultural value, emphasizing the importance of the environment in shaping human experiences.

The meanings and symbolism associated with specific sites, archives, or heritage objects can often be a source of debate and discussion. Historical heritage is particularly important because it acts as a lasting reminder of pivotal events and influential figures who have left their mark on society. The act of memorializing individuals, events, and environments is a long-standing tradition that deeply impacts the collective memory and identity of communities. These commemorative practices serve as vital reminders of the past, emphasizing the contributions of past leaders and pioneers in shaping the cultural and historical landscape of their times.

the challenge:

To align the Rover activities with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the theme "*Discover, Connect, and Action*" the programme will leverage the rich concept of heritage to foster learning, service, and global engagement.

Here's a structured set of requirements for Rovers to work toward meaningful engagement:

- **Discover:** Encourage Rovers to explore and learn about their local cultural heritage, including traditions, historical sites, and practices unique to our community.
- **Connect:** Facilitate intercultural dialogue and connections between Rovers from different backgrounds. This could include joint activities with other Crews, exchange programmes, or community events that highlight diversity.
- **Action:** Empower Rovers to take concrete steps in preserving and promoting our heritage. This could involve community service projects, awareness campaigns, or creating educational materials that can be shared with the wider community.
- **Africa Scout Day:** Takes place annually on the 13th of March. Rovers to assist other branches with implementing their programmes-on-a-plate as part of the challenge.

task 1: discover

Activities and requirements:

Complete one of the following:

- **Heritage documentation project:** Research and document a form of tangible or intangible heritage significant to your family, community, or country. Capture the stories, photographs, and experiences tied to one of the following:
 - **Cultural heritage:** Oral traditions, music, dances, rituals, or festivals.
 - **Historical heritage:** Monuments, memorials, or places that commemorate significant events or individuals.
 - **Natural heritage:** Protected areas, sacred natural sites, or ecosystems.
- **Workshops & seminars:** Participate in workshops on Indigenous Knowledge Systems and cultural practices, led by local historians or community elders, emphasizing heritage preservation.
- **Heritage awareness campaign:** Develop and present awareness campaigns highlighting the importance of protecting both tangible and intangible heritage.

OR

- Complete requirement number 1 & 2 of the Heritage Award.

SDG alignment:

- SDG 4: Quality education – Promoting inclusive & equitable quality education - heritage knowledge.
- SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities – Making cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable by understanding and appreciating cultural and natural heritage.

task 2: connect

Rovers will actively engage with their communities, connecting with diverse groups to share and celebrate heritage. The focus will be on fostering dialogue and appreciation across generations and cultures.

Activities and requirements:

Complete one of the following:

- **Cultural exchange events:** Organize or participate in events that celebrate diverse cultural heritage, such as traditional food festivals, storytelling sessions, or art exhibitions. This will provide a platform for learning and mutual respect.
- **Community dialogues:** Facilitate discussions between generations to learn about evolving heritage values and their impact on society today. Special attention should be given to understanding how past practices can inform sustainable living.
- **Adopt-a-site programme:** Work in teams to partner with heritage conservation groups and assist in the preservation and maintenance of historic sites, ensuring they remain vibrant for future generations.

OR

- Complete requirement number 3 of the Heritage Award.

SDG alignment:

- SDG 10: Reduced inequality – Empowering all people, irrespective of age, gender, or cultural background, to feel represented in their heritage.
- SDG 16: Peace, justice, and strong institutions – Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies by building a shared understanding through heritage.

task 3: action

Rovers will undertake service projects that contribute to preserving and promoting heritage, with an emphasis on sustainable practices and inclusivity.

Activities and requirements:

Complete one of the following:

- **Heritage restoration projects:** Volunteer for projects that restore and maintain heritage sites or contribute to the conservation of natural environments that hold cultural significance.
- **Skill transfer workshops:** Learn and teach traditional skills, such as craftsmanship, farming techniques, or music, focusing on sustainability and adapting traditional knowledge for modern use.
- **Heritage and sustainability drive:** Implement initiatives that incorporate traditional ecological knowledge to address local environmental challenges, like sustainable agriculture or water conservation.

OR

- Complete requirement number 4 of the Heritage Award.

SDG Alignment:

- SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth – Supporting initiatives that create job opportunities in heritage conservation and cultural tourism.
- SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production – Encouraging the use of traditional, eco-friendly methods and crafts.
- SDG 13: Climate action – Leveraging Indigenous knowledge for climate resilience.

Programme elements:

Through these requirements, Rovers will explore the past, engage meaningfully with the present, and take action to shape a sustainable future, all while contributing to global goals.

reminder:

registration:

Rovers are requested to register their participation in the ***Our Heritage National Challenge 2025*** by clicking on the [registration link **HERE**](#). (Ctrl + Click to follow link). It's simple, quick and will only take two minutes!

Please register for participation in the National Challenge 2025 by the latest 28th February 2025

deadline:

National Challenge deadline: 30 November 2025. All entries are to be submitted online by 11 December 2025.

On completion of the National Challenge, the Rovers who took part will be awarded a special National Challenge badge.

note for rovers:

You can help SCOUTS South Africa enhance our public visibility by embracing the PR value of the National Challenge 2025.

Please take advantage of the PR opportunities and (with parental consent if children are shown) post your Crew's *Our Heritage* activities and photographs on social media.

Suggested hashtags: #OurHeritage #NationalChallenge2025 #Rovers #scoutssouthafrica #scoutssa #Scouts #Skills4Life #Communities #Upliftment #YouthEmpowerment #Scouts4SDGs

appendices:

The Heritage Award* requirements

1. Think about what you perceive heritage to be and compare that to other people's understanding.
2. Choose two of the following topics and hold a short discussion with your Crew on the topics selected. Why should we be preserving Heritage?
 - How can the presentation and interpretation of Heritage (objects and site) be used to create a biased view of the past?
 - Why should historical, archaeological and heritage objects in foreign museums be returned to their country of origin?
 - Why is it important to protect historical objects, sites, monuments?
3. Do one of the following:
 - Assist a younger branch in completing the requirement of their Archaeological* or Heritage themed badges.
 - Run a program for Meerkats, Cubs or Scouts on the theme of heritage awareness. This can be done in a presentation, or any creative way.
4. Choose one of these options:
 - Volunteer at a museum or historical site for at least 30 hours (This can include one of the Scouting Museums).
 - Maintain the history for your Crew for at least 1 year. In this time, you must create a display of the Crew's history and heritage including a list of past Crew Chairs and BP Recipients (if any) and explain why it's important to maintain the history and tell the story of their Crew. This is to be displayed at the Group AGM or a District event (if a district Crew).
 - Raise awareness of the importance of heritage within South Africa, this should be done to a non-Scouting audience and should focus on two of the following themes.
 - Sustainability
 - Education
 - Responsibility

** This badge is based on the Derbyshire Scout Archaeology Badge. For more info and activities relating to Archaeology and heritage visit <https://www.derbyshirescouts.org/activity/Archaeology>.*